Testæ osseæ mensura.

	ped.	unc.	lin.
Longitudo dorsi	1	0	5
Latitudo ad scutorum marginalium par quartum	0	7	5
——————————— sextum	0	6	7
——————————— nonum	0	9	0
Altitudo testæ	0	5	6
Longitudo sterni	0	10	6

Although the distinctions which exist between this species and *T. tabulata* are such as might strike even an unpractised erpetologist as sufficient at once to point them out as distinct, it was not until Spix examined them both, in every stage, in their native country, that they were properly discriminated; nor indeed had any attempt been offered at showing their distinctive characters, nor even a suggestion to that effect been made, by previous authors. Daudin has, in fact, described a specimen of this species as *T. tabulata;* and Spix himself, to whom the merit of distinguishing them belongs, has much diminished its value, by the total want of discrimination which he has evinced in forming three new species from as many mere varieties of age and colour of *T. tabulata.* I had, it is true, long before separated, in my own cabinet, the specimens of *T. carbonaria* from those of *tabulata;* but this had been the result of the very marked differences which are so obvious in the living animals, rather than from those essential characters in the form of the shell which, though less striking, are so constant as to constitute excellent specific distinctions.

Mr. Gray has applied to the present species the specific name of *Hercules* given by Spix to the aged state of *T. tabulata;* although, if there be one condition of that species more dissimilar than all others from the true *carbonaria*, it is this. The very figure on which Mr. Gray has founded his adoption of Spix's name, contradicts in a most striking manner his own specific character, "lateribus inflexis;" for in the Plate the sides are distinctly convex; whilst in the figure of *carbonaria*, in the same work, the characters are all sufficiently well expressed.

The characters in which the present species differs from *T. tabulata* are

striking and constant. The following parallel will exhibit the most important of them.

In *T. tabulata.*	In *T. carbonaria.*
The general colour of the skin a lightish olive.	The general colour dark olive, approaching in parts to black.
Scales on the legs yellow.	Scales on the legs a deep bright red.
Ground colour of the shell fuscous, in old specimens brownish yellow, with yellow areolæ.	General colour of the shell a rich deep black, with yellow areolæ.
Tail extremely short.	Tail moderately long.
Posterior sternal notch triangular, nearly half as deep as it is broad.	Posterior sternal notch lunate, very broad and shallow, the depth being less than one fifth of the breadth.

In young specimens the shell is not contracted at the sides; but in older ones the middle of the shell is narrower by about an inch than the anterior part, and by nearly two inches and a half than the hinder part. The plates also lose the sulci and become polished by age.

I have a shell of this species exhibiting a very remarkable variation in form, in which the bones are exceedingly thick and heavy, and raised beneath each plate, so as to give a considerable degree of elevation to each dorsal plate; the areolæ are truncated. (See the Plate B.)

The habits of this species resemble those of *T. tabulata;* but it inhabits a more southern latitude, as I believe it is not found in any part of the United States. It is very common in Brazil, Demerara, and the whole of Tropical America, as well as in the island of Jamaica.

The egg is very similar to that of *T. tabulata*, but rather smaller, being an oblate spheroid, of which the greater diameter is 1 inch 9 lines, and the less 1 inch 6 lines.